

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Morikawa et al.

Confirmation No. 1756

Application No.: 10/569,006

Attorney Docket No: 7620-X06-005

Filed: 02/21/2006

Group Art Unit: 1725

For: Nozzle and Continuous Casting of Steel and  
Continuous Steel Casting Method Using Same

Examiner: Kerns, Kevin P.

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop AF Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner Kearns:

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed May 8, 2007, Applicants hereby submit the following amendments and remarks and requests for reconsideration. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Response begins on a separate sheet. Applicants submit these amendments and remarks serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability.